

Laboratory

CHLORINE

Agent Overview: Chlorine (CL), classified as a choking/pulmonary agent, is a gas at

room temperature. However, chlorine can be converted into a liquid for shipment and storage. Chlorine gas is irritating and corrosive to the eyes, skin and respiratory tract. Exposure to chlorine may cause burning of the eyes, nose and throat; cough, airway constriction,

edema of the airway and lungs; and death.

Lab Specimen Submittal: Authorization by Dr. Jane Getchell, Director DPHL; Christina

Pleasanton, Deputy Director DPHL; or Tara Lydick, Chemical

Terrorism Coordinator.

Type of Specimens <u>Urine</u>: 25mL-50mL screw-cap container

Necessary for Testing: Whole blood:

- Three, 5 or 7 mL purple-top (EDTA) tubes (vacuum fill only) AND

- One, 5 or 7 mL gray-top or green-top (vacuum fill only) AND

- Two empty urine cups and two empty blood tubes for each lot #

submitted.

Packaging Instructions: <u>Urine</u>: freeze specimen upon collection and ship on dry ice; label

specimens and package individually; wrap with absorbent material.

Whole blood: place filled tubes in a shipping rack for stability, wrap the

tubes in absorbent material, and secure with tape. Place the packaged tubes in a secondary unbreakable container. Specimens

may be shipped cold but *must not* be frozen.

<u>All:</u> wrap sample containers and layers with tamper-proof, waterproof forensic evidence tape initialed by collector, being careful not to cover the sample labels. Ship to DPHL as Biological Substance, Category B

(Packing Instruction 650).

Receiving Specimens

at DPHL:

Authorized specimens are received at the rear (loading dock) entrance of the laboratory. Submitters must present ID and have

proper forms completed.

Handling of Specimens: Chain of custody procedures must be followed. Urine specimens

should be frozen upon collection.

Reporting Results: Reference laboratory will notify DPHL as soon as possible. The

Potential Exposure Call Log and Information form will provide information for notification of testing results outside of the DPHL.

Contact Information: Jane Getchell, DrPH, Director DPHL, 302-223-1520 (24/7 coverage)

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